

**Senator Chuck Gross**

District 23

## 2006 Legislative Survey Results

**EMINENT DOMAIN**

The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that private property can be seized if local governments can find a more productive economic use for it. This includes houses, churches and businesses. Do you support legislation to prevent the seizure of private property?

Yes	69%
No	28%
No Selection	3%

**SEX OFFENDERS**

Although sex offenders are required to file their name and address with the government for the safety of Missouri residents, many sex offenders do not keep their information updated, and their whereabouts are unknown. The Legislature recently passed a law requiring certain sex offenders to wear a bracelet that tracks their location by satellite surveillance.

Do you support a law that would require convicted sex offenders who refuse to keep their current address registered to wear similar GPS tracking units?

Yes	81%
No	9%
No Selection	9%

**DEATH PENALTY FOR MINORS**

Last year, the United State Supreme Court issued a ruling in a Virginia case that abolished executions of mentally retarded persons. The Court's decision found the execution of the mentally retarded was unconstitutionally cruel because these individuals may be incapable of understanding their situation or unable to help their attorneys with their defense. Some groups have said that the same reasoning should apply to the execution of individuals who were minors when they committed their crime.

Should Missouri abolish the death penalty for offenders who were under the age of 18 when they committed their crime?

Yes	38%
No	56%
No Selection	6%

## 2006 Legislative Survey Results

### **TOURISM**

Missouri is blessed with an abundance of rivers, many with major historic significance. Development of historic riverfronts could enhance Missouri tourism and be a source of economic development for communities along the rivers.

Should Missouri direct tourism resources toward revitalization of historic river front areas?

Yes	81%
No	9%
No Selection	9%

### **TOLL ROADS**

After voters approved Amendment 3 in 2004, motor vehicle fuel taxes and vehicle taxes now go directly toward constructing and improving highways, roads and bridges. But Missouri's transportation system is still considered one of the worst in the nation. More funding is needed to complete highway improvement projects across the state, such as adding a third lane to each side of I-70. However, voters have repeatedly rejected new tax increases to cover the shortage because their faith in MoDOT is waning. Some contend that charging tolls for I-70 travelers is the only way to ensure that out-of-state motorists help pay for the wear their vehicles cause to the interstate. Opponents argue that Missourians should not have to pay again for roads they have already paid for with taxes.

I support the use of toll roads to fund only the building of new highways and bridges.	16%
I support the use of toll roads to fund building new highways and bridges and improving existing roads and bridges.	22%
I oppose the use of toll roads to fund any road and bridge projects.	53%
No Selection	9%

### **EMISSIONS TESTING**

To reduce air pollution in the St. Louis region and to meet federal mandates for ozone reductions, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources launched an enhanced vehicle emissions testing program, the Gateway Clean Air Program (GCAP), in April 2000. Proponents of the program say it has significantly reduced hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and oxides in nitrogen in the first four years of its existence. To end the program before the contract is up next August will cost the state tens of millions of dollars in fees and penalties and could mean a cut in state services. Some believe the program is a financial burden and inconvenience to those living in the St. Louis area. Other have proposed modifying the program by exempting from the emission tests certain vehicles, such as those that have a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating in excess of 8,000 pounds within four years of the specific model year.

I support ending the vehicle emissions program immediately, even if this means a cut in state services.	41%
I support modifying the vehicle emissions program to lessen the financial burden and inconvenience of the program.	25%
I oppose ending the vehicle emissions program immediately.	31%
No Selection	3%

## 2006 Legislative Survey Results

### STATE BUDGET

In sharp contrast to the boom years of the 1990s, recent state budgets have suffered from difficult economic times. Short-term state revenues will likely not keep pace with current levels of state spending, requiring further cuts in the state budget.

Please rank (1-10) the service areas listed below in the order you would most like to see them protected from state budget cuts, with #1 being your highest priority:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	No Sel.
Prisons	0%	0%	0%	6%	9%	3%	9%	3%	38%	25%	6%
Economic Dev. Incentives for Business	3%	6%	0%	3%	6%	9%	0%	9%	13%	44%	6%
Elem. & Sec. Education	50%	6%	3%	3%	16%	6%	0%	0%	9%	0%	6%
Environmental Protection	6%	9%	13%	13%	6%	3%	9%	19%	9%	6%	6%
Health	22%	25%	9%	0%	13%	16%	6%	3%	0%	0%	6%
Higher Education	0%	9%	13%	13%	6%	16%	13%	3%	16%	6%	6%
Mental Health	3%	3%	19%	9%	13%	3%	25%	13%	3%	3%	6%
Public Safety / Law Enforcement	6%	16%	16%	22%	9%	13%	13%	0%	0%	0%	6%
Social Services	0%	19%	9%	22%	6%	13%	9%	9%	0%	6%	6%
Transportation	0%	9%	13%	6%	13%	13%	6%	31%	3%	0%	6%

## 2006 Legislative Survey Results

### **GAMING REVENUE**

Excursion gaming boats in Missouri have generally been quite profitable. Some believe that they should pay a larger share of their revenues to the state through increased boarding fees or higher tax rates. Another possible way to increase revenue for Missouri would be to repeal the \$500 loss limit, which was intended to protect chronic gamblers but discourage out-of-state high rollers from traveling to Missouri. At this time, Missouri is the only state with a loss limit.

I support increasing the tax rate or boarding fees for gambling boats.	41%
I support repealing the \$500 loss limit.	31%
I oppose increasing the tax rate or boarding fees and repealing the \$500 loss limit.	22%
No Selection	6%

### **STEM CELL RESEARCH**

Research involving human embryonic stem cells is a controversial issue involving medical, political, religious and quality-of-life considerations. Embryonic stem cells can be made through somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), a process in which the nucleus of an unfertilized egg is removed and replaced with the nucleus of another cell from a human body. The egg is then stimulated to divide (as it would when fertilized by a sperm) and the early stem cells are then harvested. This process could possibly lead to cures for some diseases, however as of yet, there is no guarantee that SCNT research will produce useful results. Many believe that life begins at conception and that tampering with embryos is tampering with life.

Yes, I support human embryonic stem cell research.	69%
No, I do not support human embryonic stem cell research.	31%
No Selection	0%